

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-2575**

**FY 2010 APPLICATION PACKAGE FOR NEW GRANTS  
UNDER  
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH  
DISABILITY REHABILITATION RESEARCH PROJECTS (DRRP)**

**TRANSITION TO EMPLOYMENT  
CFDA NUMBER: 84.133A-1**



**FORM APPROVED  
OMB No. 1820-0027, EXP. DATE 03/31/2013  
SF FORM 424, 3/31/2012**

**DATED MATERIAL - OPEN IMMEDIATELY  
CLOSING DATE: JUNE 29, 2010**

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# **SECTION A**

## **DEAR APPLICANT LETTER**

April 30, 2010

Dear Applicant:

The Secretary invites applications for a new award in fiscal year (FY) 2010 under the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects, for a Center on Transition to Employment (CFDA Number - 84.133A-1). NIDRR is seeking applications that address all elements of the priority, and that propose appropriate, high-quality research methodologies. It is critical that proposals describe expected public benefits, especially benefits for individuals with disabilities, and propose projects that are designed to demonstrate outcomes that are consistent with the proposed goals.

The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Due to the open nature of the competition, and to assist with the selection of reviewers for this competition, NIDRR is requesting all potential applicants to voluntarily submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). The submission is not mandatory and the content of the LOI will not be peer reviewed or otherwise used to rate an applicant's application. Instructions for submittal are in Section K.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

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This application package contains information and the required forms for potential applicants to apply and be considered for a FY 2010 grant award under this competition, including the published Federal Register notice dated April 30, 2010. The background statement from the Notice of Proposed Priorities is in Section D.

The closing date (application deadline) is **June 29, 2010**.

Potential applicants are advised to read the materials in this application package carefully. Please pay particular attention to the information on the types of organizations that are eligible to apply for these grants, how to prepare an application, the dollar amount for any year, the protection of human subjects, and the selection criteria. Applications must be responsive to the absolute priority in Section C and the statutory, regulatory, and general requirements for the DRRP program in Section E. The application narrative should be written in the order of the selection criteria in Section F. The selection criteria will be used by the reviewers to evaluate the application.

The start date for new awards for the (FY) 2010 programs will be no later than October 1, 2010.

**Include a one page abstract.** The abstract is a critical component of the proposal, and it should describe the purpose, target population to be served during the project period, planned goals and objectives, proposed methodological approach, and anticipated project outcomes.

## **AWARD AMOUNTS, REQUIRED COST SHARE AND INDIRECT COST RATE**

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We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding the revised amount of \$650,000 for a single budget period of 12 months for the Transition to Employment (CFDA Number - 84.133A-1). The minimum cost sharing of up to 1% is required and can be negotiated at the time of the grant award if not included in the application. Cost-match/share can be a reduced indirect cost rate, donated FTE, donated space, and/or donated equipment. The indirect cost rate is your institution's federally negotiated rate.

## **APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES**

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You **must** submit your application electronically through the e-Application system. <http://e-grants.ed.gov> See Section B, Notice Inviting Applications and Section J, Application Transmittal Instructions. There is a demo on the e-Application website.

**NOTE:** You will be uploading sections of your application by heading. There is a heading for: (1) abstract; (2) table of contents; (3) project narrative; (4) other – resumes; (5) other – letters of commitment/support; (6) other and (7) budget narrative/justification. There is a file-size limitation to each section and you may only upload one document under each heading. Therefore, in order to make sure that all of your materials are uploaded successfully, you will need to combine multiple original documents for a heading (e.g., letters, resumes) into a single document before uploading.

Electronic copies must be fully uploaded on the e-Application site by 4:30:00 pm, Washington DC time on the closing date, **June 29, 2010**. This process may take several hours. Therefore, please allow several hours or a full day to submit your application. If there is a submission error, additional time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit in paper or electronic format. **We encourage you to read Section J – e-Application Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants**

## **PROGRAM REGULATIONS**

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These grants are subject to the requirements of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97, which set forth general rules affecting the submittal, review, grant award, and post-award administration for Department of Education grant programs.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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Pre-Application Meeting: A pre-application meeting will be held between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on May 19, 2010 by teleconference. Interested parties are invited to participate in the pre-application meeting to discuss the funding priority and to receive information and technical assistance. You must contact Marlene Spencer at [Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov](mailto:Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov) by Tuesday, May 18, 2010 in order to participate in this meeting. NIDRR staff also will be available to provide information and technical assistance via individual phone consultations from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on May 19, 2010. Requests for individual consultations during this one hour window must be made in advance to Marlene Spencer.

If you have any questions about the information in this application package, please contact Marlene Spencer at [Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov](mailto:Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov); 202-245-7532 or Lynn Medley at [Lynn.Medley@ed.gov](mailto:Lynn.Medley@ed.gov); 202-245-7338. Individuals who use a telecommunications device (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday.

If you need help with e- applications before the closing date, please contact e-application Customer Support at 1-888-336-8930. For TTY: 1-866-697-2696 or Local: 1-202-401-8363. Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm Washington DC time.

**NOTE**: Please forward this entire application package to the individual or office responsible for preparing an application, as they will need the entire package to complete the grant application.

Thank you for your interest in these programs.

Sincerely,

Lynnae M. Ruttledge,  
Acting Director

# **SECTION B**

## **FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW AWARDS**

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Overview Information

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

(NIDRR)--Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and

Centers Program--Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects

(DRRPs)--Transition to Employment

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY)  
2010.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133A-  
1.

Dates:

Applications Available: April 30, 2010.

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: May 19, 2010.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 29, 2010

Full Text of Announcement

## **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the DRRP program is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the



most severe disabilities. DRRPs carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, training, demonstration, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance.

An applicant for assistance under this program must demonstrate in its application how it will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds (34 CFR 350.40(a)). The approaches an applicant may take to meet this requirement are found in 34 CFR 350.40(b).

Additional information on the DRRP program can be found at: [www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP](http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP).

Priorities: NIDRR has established two absolute priorities for this competition.

Absolute Priorities: The General DRRP Requirements priority, which applies to all DRRP competitions, is from the notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). The Transition to Employment priority is from the notice of final priority for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

For FY 2010, these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet these priorities.

These priorities are:

General Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements and Transition to Employment.

Note: The full text of each of these priorities is included in the pertinent notice of final priority or priorities published in the Federal Register and in the application package for this competition.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g) and 764(a).

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 350. (c) The notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). (d) The notice of final priority for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education (IHEs) only.

## **II. Award Information**

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: \$650,000.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$650,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

## **III. Eligibility Information**

1. Eligible Applicants: States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; IHEs; and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost sharing is required by 34 CFR 350.62(a) and will be negotiated at the time of the grant award.

## **IV. Application and Submission Information**

1. Address to Request Application Package: ED Pubs, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 22207, Alexandria, VA 22304. Telephone, toll free: 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (703) 605-6794.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call, toll free: 1-877-576-7734.

You can contact ED Pubs at its Web site, also:  
www.EDPubs.gov or at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application package from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this program or competition as follows: CFDA number 84.133A-1.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the person or team listed under Accessible Format in section VIII of this notice.

## 2. Content and Form of Application Submission:

Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this competition.

Page Limit: The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 125 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative. Single spacing may be used for titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial. An application submitted in any other font (including Times Roman or Arial Narrow) will not be accepted.

The recommended page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the application narrative section (Part III).

The application package will provide instructions for completing all components to be included in the application. Each application must include a cover sheet (Standard Form 424); budget requirements (ED Form 524) and narrative justification; other required forms; an abstract, Human Subjects narrative,

Part III narrative; resumes of staff; and other related materials, if applicable.

3. Submission Dates and Times:

Applications Available: April 30, 2010.

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: Interested parties are invited to participate in a pre-application meeting and to receive information and technical assistance through individual consultation with NIDRR staff. The pre-application meeting will be held on May 19, 2010. Interested parties may participate in this meeting by conference call with NIDRR staff from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., Washington, DC time. NIDRR staff also will be available from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the same day, by telephone, to provide information and technical assistance through individual consultation. For further information or to make arrangements to participate in the meeting via conference call or for an individual consultation, contact Marlene Spencer, U.S. Department of Education, Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), room 5133, 550 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-7532 or by e-mail: marlene.spencer@ed.gov.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 29, 2010

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically using the Electronic Grant Application

System (e-Application) accessible through the Department's e-Grants site. For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV. 6. Other Submission Requirements of this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice. If the Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual's application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in this notice.

4. Intergovernmental Review: This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

5. Funding Restrictions: We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the Applicable Regulations section in this notice.

6. Other Submission Requirements:

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to

this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. Electronic Submission of Applications.

Applications for grants under the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP)--CFDA Number 84.133A-1 must be submitted electronically using e-Application, accessible through the Department's e-Grants Web site at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement.

While completing your electronic application, you will be entering data online that will be saved into a database. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

Please note the following:

- You must complete the electronic submission of your grant application by 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. E-Application will not accept an application for this competition after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington,



DC time, on the application deadline date. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process.

- The hours of operation of the e-Grants Web site are 6:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Wednesday; and 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 8:00 p.m. Sunday, Washington, DC time. Please note that, because of maintenance, the system is unavailable between 8:00 p.m. on Sundays and 6:00 a.m. on Mondays, and between 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and 6:00 a.m. on Thursdays, Washington, DC time. Any modifications to these hours are posted on the e-Grants Web site.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information you typically provide on the following forms: the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, Budget Information--Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications. You must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document)

format. If you upload a file type other than the three file types specified in this paragraph or submit a password protected file, we will not review that material.

- Your electronic application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.

- Prior to submitting your electronic application, you may wish to print a copy of it for your records.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgment that will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).

- Within three working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the SF 424 to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

- (1) Print SF 424 from e-Application.

- (2) The applicant's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.

- (3) Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard-copy signature page of the SF 424.

- (4) Fax the signed SF 424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 245-6272.

- We may request that you provide us original signatures on other forms at a later date.

### Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of e-Application

Unavailability: If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because e-Application is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. We will grant this extension if--

(1) You are a registered user of e-Application and you have initiated an electronic application for this competition; and

(2) (a) E-Application is unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date; or

(b) E-Application is unavailable for any period of time between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.

We must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension or to confirm our acknowledgment of any system unavailability, you may contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under For Further Information Contact (see VII. Agency Contact) or (2) the e-Grants help desk at 1-888-336-8930. If e-Application is unavailable due to technical problems with the system and, therefore, the application

deadline is extended, an e-mail will be sent to all registered users who have initiated an e-Application. Extensions referred to in this section apply only to the unavailability of e-Application.

Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement: You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through e-Application because--

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to e-Application;

and

- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevents you from using the Internet to submit your application. If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Marlene Spencer, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5133, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2700. FAX: (202) 245-7323.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education  
Application Control Center  
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-1)  
LBJ Basement Level 1  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20202-4260

You must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.

(3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.

(4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

(1) A private metered postmark.

(2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application, by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education

Application Control Center

Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-1)

550 12th Street, SW.

Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza

Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

(1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this grant notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

## **V. Application Review Information**

Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 350.54 and are listed in the application package.

## **VI. Award Administration Information**

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may notify you informally, also.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Reporting: At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific



requirements on reporting, please go to  
[www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html](http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html).

Note: NIDRR will provide information by letter to grantees on how and when to submit the final performance report.

4. Performance Measures: To evaluate the overall success of its research program, NIDRR assesses the quality of its funded projects through a review of grantee performance and products. Each year, NIDRR examines a portion of its grantees to determine:

- The number of accomplishments (e.g., new or improved tools, methods, discoveries, standards, interventions, programs, or devices) developed or tested with NIDRR funding that have been judged by expert panels to be of high quality and to advance the field.
- The average number of publications per award based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities in refereed journals.
- The percentage of new NIDRR grants that assess the effectiveness of interventions, programs, and devices using rigorous methods.

NIDRR uses information submitted by grantees as part of their Annual Performance Reports (APRs) for these reviews.

VII. Agency Contact

For Further Information Contact: Marlene Spencer, U.S.

Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5133,  
PCP, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-7532 or by e-  
mail: marlene.spencer@ed.gov

If you use a TDD, call the Federal Relay Service (FRS),  
toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

#### **VIII. Other Information**

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain  
this document and a copy of the application package in an  
accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or  
computer diskette) by contacting the Grants and Contracts  
Services Team, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland  
Avenue, SW., room 5075, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2550.  
Telephone: (202) 245-7363. If you use a TDD, call the FRS,  
toll-free, at 1-800-877-8339.

Electronic Access to This Document: You can view this document,  
as well as all other documents of this Department published in  
the Federal Register, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format  
(PDF) on the Internet at the following site:

www.ed.gov/news/fedregister. To use PDF you must have Adobe  
Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site.

Note: The official version of this document is the document  
published in the Federal Register. Free Internet access to the  
official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal

Regulations is available on GPO Access at:

[www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html).

Dated:

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Alexa Posny,  
Assistant Secretary for  
Special Education and  
Rehabilitative Services.

# **SECTION C**

## **FEDERAL REGISTER FINAL PRIORITY NOTICE**

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research  
(NIDRR)--Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and  
Centers Program--Disability Rehabilitation Research Project  
(DRRP)--Transition to Employment

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133A-  
1.

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative  
Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of final priority.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and  
Rehabilitative Services announces a priority for the Disability  
and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program  
administered by NIDRR. Specifically, this notice announces a  
priority for a DRRP on Transition to Employment. The Assistant  
Secretary may use this priority for a competition in fiscal year  
(FY) 2010 and later years. We take this action to focus  
research attention on areas of national need. We intend this  
priority to improve rehabilitation services and outcomes for  
individuals with disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This priority is effective June 1, 2010

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marlene Spencer, U.S.  
Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5133,  
Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), Washington, DC 20202-2700.  
Telephone: (202) 245-7532 or by e-mail:  
marlene.spencer@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD),  
call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-  
8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This notice of final priority is in concert with NIDRR's  
Final Long-Range Plan for FY 2005-2009 (Plan). The Plan, which  
was published in the Federal Register on February 15, 2006 (71  
FR 8165), can be accessed on the Internet at the following site:  
[www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oters/nidrr/policy.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oters/nidrr/policy.html).

Through the implementation of the Plan, NIDRR seeks to:

- (1) improve the quality and utility of disability and  
rehabilitation research;
- (2) foster an exchange of expertise,  
information, and training to facilitate the advancement of  
knowledge and understanding of the unique needs of traditionally  
underserved populations;
- (3) determine best strategies and  
programs to improve rehabilitation outcomes for underserved  
populations;
- (4) identify research gaps;
- (5) identify  
mechanisms of integrating research and practice; and
- (6) disseminate findings.

Purpose of Program:

The purpose of the DRRP program is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities. DRRPs carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19:

research, training, demonstration, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance. An applicant for assistance under this program must demonstrate in its application how it will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds (34 CFR 350.40(a)). The approaches an applicant may take to meet this requirement are found in 34 CFR 350.40(b). In addition, NIDRR intends to require all DRRP applicants to meet the requirements of the General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements priority that it published in a notice of final priorities in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472).

Additional information on the DRRP program can be found at: [www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP](http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP).

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g) and 764(a).

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR part 350.

We published a notice of proposed priority (NPP) for NIDRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program in the Federal Register on December 29, 2009 (74 FR 68808). The NPP included a background statement that described our rationale for the priority proposed in that notice.

There is one significant difference between the NPP and this notice of final priority (NFP) as discussed in the following section.

Public Comment:

In response to our invitation in the NPP, five parties submitted comments on the proposed priority. An analysis of the comments and of any changes in the priority since publication of the NPP follows.

Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes or suggested changes the law does not authorize us to make under the applicable statutory authority. In addition, we do not address general comments that raised concerns not directly related to the proposed priority.

Analysis of Comments and Changes:

Comment: One commenter suggested that the priority address the effect of State budget crises on transition programs.



Discussion: Although the priority does not explicitly include a requirement for research on State finances, nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from proposing to examine the effect of this factor on transition programs and employment outcomes for youth with disabilities. However, NIDRR has no basis for requiring all applicants to focus on State finances. The peer review process will determine the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter asked how NIDRR envisions the relationship between this priority and other NIDRR-funded projects that address specific populations of youth with disabilities, and whether the priority requests a focus on different subpopulations or is inclusive of all youth with disabilities.

Discussion: This priority focuses specifically on transition to employment, rather than on other aspects of transition, such as self-determination or community participation. Accordingly, the target population for this priority is transition-age youth with disabilities who are at risk for poor employment outcomes, rather than all youth with disabilities. We note that under paragraph (b) of the priority, applicants must identify the specific at-risk group or groups of transition-age youth with disabilities they propose to study, provide evidence that the

selected population or populations are, in fact, at risk for poor employment outcomes, and explain how the proposed practices are expected to address the needs of the population or populations.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter asked NIDRR to elaborate on the definition of disability for purposes of this priority (e.g., whether the priority should focus on individuals with disabilities who have received services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, individuals who are considered to have a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, or individuals with disabilities who are eligible for the vocational rehabilitation program).

Discussion: The Rehabilitation Act (Section 7(20)(B)) defines "individual with a disability," with respect to this program, as any person who "(i) has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities; (ii) has a record of such an impairment; or (iii) is regarded as having such an impairment." Within the broad constraints of this definition, applicants have the flexibility to specify their target population for the purposes of their proposed projects.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter questioned the relationship between the research activities to be conducted under paragraph (a) and the research activities to be conducted under paragraph (b) of the priority. The commenter asked whether proposals should determine the promising practice(s) to be studied under paragraph (b) before all of the research conducted under paragraph (a) has been completed.

Discussion: Paragraph (a) of the priority requires the applicant to conduct research to identify promising employment-focused practices for transition-age youth with disabilities. Paragraph (b) requires the applicant to conduct research to determine the effectiveness of promising transition practices, using at least one of the promising practices identified in paragraph (a). NIDRR acknowledges the difficulty involved in planning to meet the requirements in paragraph (b) before the research activities proposed for paragraph (a) are completed, and therefore will change paragraph (b) to make clear that it is not necessary for an applicant to fully delineate the range of promising practices under paragraph (a) before planning the research under paragraph (b).

Changes: NIDRR has revised the priority to remove the reference to paragraph (a) in paragraph (b) of the priority to clarify that the promising practices evaluated under paragraph (b) are

not wholly dependent on the results of research conducted by the applicant under paragraph (a).

Comment: One commenter asked how NIDRR defines employment outcomes for the target population. Another commenter asked whether the research projects funded under this priority should demonstrate effects on direct employment outcomes or on outcomes related to the employability of the target population.

Discussion: There is a wide variety of valid definitions and measures of employment outcomes, many of which would be precluded if NIDRR specified those measures and outcomes in the priority. Therefore, NIDRR is not providing a definition of employment outcome nor is it specifying the types of employment outcomes an applicant should use. Instead, NIDRR encourages applicants to use definitions and outcome measures that are appropriate to the research projects being proposed. The peer review process will determine the merits of each application.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter recommended that the priority focus on effective practices and interventions for individuals who are deaf-blind.

Discussion: Paragraph (b) of the priority requires applicants to identify the specific at-risk group or groups of transition-age youth with disabilities they propose to study, provide evidence that the selected population or populations are, in

fact, at risk for poor employment outcomes, and explain how the proposed practices are expected to address the needs of the population or populations. Provided an applicant meets these requirements, it is not limited in the characteristics of the subpopulations it may identify and therefore could choose to include youth who are deaf-blind in its proposed project.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter encouraged NIDRR to recognize organized recreational and competitive sports programs for youth with disabilities as a promising practice in helping to address poor employment outcomes among transition-age youth with disabilities.

Discussion: Paragraph (a) of the priority specifies that the research conducted under this priority should generate new knowledge of promising transition practices, and paragraph (b) requires research on the effectiveness of transition practices for a particular subpopulation of transition-age youth with disabilities who are at risk for poor employment outcomes. The language in the priority does not specify the type of practices to be investigated. Therefore, the priority does not preclude an applicant from investigating the effects of recreational and competitive sports programs on employment outcomes for transition-age youth at risk for poor employment outcomes. However, NIDRR has no basis for requiring all applicants to

conduct research on such programs. The peer review process will determine the merits of each application.

Changes: None.

FINAL PRIORITY:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services announces a priority for a Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on Transition to Employment. The purpose of this priority is to identify and evaluate promising practices that will facilitate job entry and career development for transition-age youth with disabilities who are at risk for poor employment outcomes.

A number of factors can affect employment outcomes for this population, including demographic characteristics (e.g., race/ethnicity, age), disability characteristics (e.g., disability type) and disadvantaged background (e.g., poverty, foster care, involvement in the juvenile justice system). The DRRP must build upon the current research literature and ongoing implementation and demonstration of promising practices in the field of transition to employment.

Under this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) New knowledge of promising employment-focused transition practices for transition-age youth with disabilities who are at risk for poor employment outcomes. The DRRP must

contribute to this outcome by conducting research to identify such practices. These practices may include, but are not limited to: work experience during the secondary school years; involvement of employers in the design and implementation of the transition program; supported employment; and increased coordination among schools, State vocational rehabilitation (VR) programs, or other programs serving transition-age youth with disabilities.

(b) New knowledge regarding the effectiveness of employment-focused transition practices for transition-age youth with disabilities at risk for poor employment outcomes. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by implementing and evaluating at least one promising practice for a particular at-risk group of transition-age youth with disabilities. In evaluating the promising practice or practices, the DRRP must use scientifically based research, as defined in section 9101(37) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 7801(37)). Applicants must identify the specific at-risk group or groups of transition-age youth with disabilities they propose to study, provide evidence that the selected population or populations are, in fact, at risk for poor employment outcomes, and explain how the proposed practices are expected to address the needs of the population or populations.

(c) Enhancement of the knowledge base of policy makers, State VR personnel, and personnel of other programs serving transition-age youth with disabilities. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by conducting targeted dissemination of results from research conducted under paragraphs (a) and (b).

In addition, through coordination with the NIDRR Project Officer, the DRRP must contribute to this outcome by:

(1) Collaborating with relevant technical assistance grantees from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, such as the Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Centers; and

(2) Collaborating with relevant technical assistance grantees from the Office of Special Education Programs, such as the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center.

Types of Priorities:

When inviting applications for a competition using one or more priorities, we designate the type of each priority as absolute, competitive preference, or invitational through a notice in the Federal Register. The effect of each type of priority follows:

Absolute priority: Under an absolute priority, we consider only applications that meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(3)).

Competitive preference priority: Under a competitive preference priority, we give competitive preference to an application by



(1) awarding additional points, depending on the extent to which the application meets the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i)); or (2) selecting an application that meets the priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(ii)).

Invitational priority: Under an invitational priority, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the priority. However, we do not give an application that meets the priority a preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

Note: This notice does not solicit applications. In any year in which we choose to use this priority, we invite applications through a notice in the Federal Register.

Executive Order 12866: This notice has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866. Under the terms of the order, we have assessed the potential costs and benefits of this regulatory action.

The potential costs associated with this final regulatory action are those resulting from statutory requirements and those we have determined as necessary for administering this program effectively and efficiently.

In assessing the potential costs and benefits--both quantitative and qualitative--of this final regulatory action,

we have determined that the benefits of the final priority justify the costs.

Discussion of costs and benefits:

The benefits of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Programs have been well established over the years in that similar projects have been completed successfully. This final priority will generate new knowledge about transition to employment for youth with disabilities, through research, development, dissemination, utilization, or technical assistance projects.

Another benefit of this final priority is that the establishment of a new DRRP will improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. The new DRRP will generate, disseminate, and promote the use of new information about transition to employment for youth with disabilities. This information will improve the options for youth with disabilities as they transition into adulthood and employment activities.

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the Grants and Contracts Services Team, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5075, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 245-7363. If you use a TDD, call the FRS, toll-free, at 1-800-877-8339.

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[www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html).

Dated:

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Alexa Posny,  
Assistant Secretary for  
Special Education and Rehabilitative  
Services.

# **SECTION D**

## **BACKGROUND STATEMENT**

**From the notice of proposed priorities (NPP) for NIDRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program in the Federal Register on December 29, 2009 (74 FR 68808)**

**TRANSITION TO EMPLOYMENT**

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**Background:**

Only 43 percent of youth with disabilities are employed during the period immediately after high school compared to 63 percent of their peers without disabilities (Wagner et al., 2005). In addition, certain populations of youth with disabilities are at an even greater risk of experiencing poor employment outcomes, such as populations who are African-American, younger, or female (Coutinho et al., 2006; Cameto et al., 2003; Fabian, 2007; Wagner et al., 2005, 2006; Wells et al., 2003). The type of disability is also related to the employment outcomes for youth with disabilities (Cameto et al., 2003; Wagner et al., 2005, 2006; Wells et al., 2003). Relative to the general population of youth with disabilities, youth with disabilities from disadvantaged backgrounds (e.g., poverty, foster care, involvement in the juvenile justice system) are at even greater risk of poor employment outcomes (Cameto et al., 2003; National Council on Disability, 2008; Wagner et al., 2005, 2006; Wells et al., 2003).

Studies of promising practices for transition-age youth with disabilities suggest that facilitators of successful employment outcomes include, but are not limited to: increasing collaboration and coordination among providers serving these youth (Flannery et al., 2007; Oertle & Trach, 2007; Wittenburg et al., 2002), encouraging youth participation in the workforce during the high school years (Fabian, 2007; Wittenburg & Maag, 2002), encouraging participation in postsecondary education (Flannery et al., 2007; Weathers et al., 2007), providing work-specific and community participation support (Garcia-Iriarte et al., 2007), and involving employers in transition programs (Fabian, 2007; Garcia-Iriarte et al., 2007; Rutkowski et al., 2006). Some of these practices, such as youth participation in the workplace during high school and employer participation in transition programs, have been developed primarily for particular high-risk groups such as minority youth from urban areas (e.g., Fabian, 2007; Garcia-Iriarte et al., 2007).

Many of the promising practices suggested by this research have been incorporated into projects supported by the U.S. Department of Education. Some projects involving promising practices, such as inter-agency collaboration, exposure to work experience, and community-based training, have been implemented by State vocational rehabilitation agencies (U.S. Department of Education, 2009). Promising practices like these and others (e.g., student-focused planning, family involvement, youth development activities) are also the focus of several current demonstration projects funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Education (2007).

Despite these efforts, there is still little scientifically based research demonstrating the efficacy of many of these practices and interventions in improving employment outcomes for transition-age youth with disabilities, particularly for those transition-age youth with disabilities who are at increased risk for poor employment outcomes. The knowledge gained from the identification and evaluation of effective interventions will provide policymakers and practitioners with the evidence they need to justify a broad application of promising practices in vocational rehabilitation and educational settings.

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# **SECTION E**

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF DRRPs**

# GENERAL DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH PROJECTS (DRRP) REQUIREMENTS

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## BACKGROUND:

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NIDRR proposes the following General DRRP Requirements priority because it believes that the effectiveness of any DRRP (including any DBTAC) depends on, among other things, how well the DRRP coordinates its research efforts with the research of other NIDRR-funded projects, involves individuals with disabilities in its activities, and identifies specific anticipated outcomes that are linked to its objectives in applying for DRRP funding. Accordingly, NIDRR intends to use the General DRRP Requirements in conjunction with all of the other DRRP priorities NIDRR proposes.

## PRIORITY:

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To meet this priority, the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) must—

- (a) Coordinate on research projects of mutual interest with relevant NIDRR-funded projects, as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer;
- (b) Involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRRP's research, training, and dissemination activities, and in evaluating its work; and
- (c) Identify anticipated outcomes (i.e., advances in knowledge or changes and improvements in policy, practice, behavior, and system capacity) that are linked to the applicant's stated grant objectives.

# **SECTION F**

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

We use the following selection criteria to evaluate applications under the DRRP program. The maximum score for all of these criteria is 100 points. The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(a) **Importance of the problem. (6 points total).**

(1) The Secretary considers the importance of the problem.

(2) In determining the importance of the problem, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the applicant clearly describes the need and target population **(3 points)**.

(ii) The extent to which the proposed project will have a beneficial impact on the target population. **(3 points)**.

(b) **Responsiveness to an absolute or competitive priority (6 points total).**

(1) The Secretary considers the responsiveness of the application to an absolute or competitive priority published in the Federal Register.

(2) In determining the application's responsiveness to the absolute or competitive priority, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the applicant addresses all requirements of the absolute or competitive priority **(3 points)**.

(ii) The extent to which the applicant's proposed activities are likely to achieve the purposes of the absolute or competitive priority **(3 points)**.

(c) **Design of research activities (46 points total).**

(1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of research activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.

(2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the research activities constitute a coherent, sustained approach to research in the field, including a substantial addition to the state-of-the-art **(8 points)**.

(ii) The extent to which the methodology of each proposed research activity is meritorious, including consideration of the extent to which--

(A) The proposed design includes a comprehensive and informed review of the current literature, demonstrating knowledge of the state-of-the-art **(7 points)**.

(B) Each research hypothesis is theoretically sound and based on current knowledge **(6 points)**.

(C) Each sample population is appropriate and of sufficient size **(8 points)**.

(D) The data collection and measurement techniques are appropriate and likely to be effective **(8 points)**; and

(E) The data analysis methods are appropriate **(9 points)**.

(d) **Design of dissemination activities (8 points total).**

(1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of dissemination activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.

(2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the methods for dissemination are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration (**4 points**).

(ii) The extent to which the information to be disseminated will be accessible to individuals with disabilities (**4 points**).

(e) **Plan of operation (8 points total)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the plan of operation.

(2) In determining the quality of the plan of operation, the Secretary considers the following factor:

(i) The adequacy of the plan of operation to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, and timelines for accomplishing project tasks (**8 points**).

(f) **Adequacy and reasonableness of the budget (4 points total)**

(1) The Secretary considers the adequacy and the reasonableness of the proposed budget.

(2) In determining the adequacy and the reasonableness of the proposed budget, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the proposed project activities (**2 points**).

(ii) The extent to which the budget for the project, including any subcontracts, is adequately justified to support the proposed project activities (**2 points**).

(g) **Plan of evaluation (8 points total)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the plan of evaluation.

(2) In determining the quality of the plan of evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the plan of evaluation provides for periodic assessment of progress toward--

(A) Implementing the plan of operation (**4 points**); and

(B) Achieving the project's intended outcomes and expected impacts (**4points**).

(h) **Project staff (10 points total)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the project staff.

(2) In determining the quality of the project staff, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability (**4 points**).

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers the following:

(i) The extent to which the key personnel and other key staff have appropriate training and experience in disciplines required to conduct all proposed activities (**3 points**).

(ii) The extent to which the commitment of staff time is adequate to accomplish all the proposed activities of the project **(3 points)**.

(i) **Adequacy and accessibility of resources (4 points)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the adequacy and accessibility of the applicant's resources to implement the proposed project.

(2) In determining the adequacy and accessibility of resources, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the applicant is committed to provide adequate facilities, equipment, other resources, including administrative support, and laboratories, if appropriate **(2 points)**.

(ii) The extent to which the facilities, equipment, and other resources are appropriately accessible to individuals with disabilities who may use the facilities, equipment, and other resources of the project **(2 points)**.



# **SECTION G**

## **PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS**

## **PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS**

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Research activities involving human subjects supported by awards under these programs are subject to Department of Education Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects. If you are applying on e-grants there is a separate place to include exempt and non-exempt narratives.

Applicants answering "Yes" to item 3 on form ED Supplemental to the SF 424 on whose research activities are nonexempt must complete the seven-point narrative on protection of human subjects. Additionally, seven point narratives are required for each participating partner if research is being conducted at other sites.

Copies of the Department of Education regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects are available from the Grants Policy and Oversight Staff (GPOS), Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Washington, D.C., telephone: 202-260-3353 and on the Protection of Human Subjects in research Web Site at:

**<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/humansub.html>**

# **SECTION H**

## **APPLICATION FORMAT**

## APPLICATION FORMAT (E-APPLICATION)

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Applications for an award must be postmarked or hand delivered by the closing date of June 29, 2010. This competition is a required electronic submission by the closing date of June 29, 2010.

It is recommended that your electronic (e-Application) via <http://e-grants.ed.gov> or paper application if you have requested and been approved for a waiver, be organized in the following manner and include the following:

**NOTE:** You will be uploading sections of your application by heading. There is a heading for: (1) abstract; (2) table of contents; (3) project narrative; (4) other – resumes; (5) other – letters of commitment/support; (6) other and (7) budget narrative/justification. There is a file-size limitation to each section and you may only upload one document under each heading. Therefore, in order to make sure that all of your materials are uploaded successfully, you will need to combine multiple original documents for a heading (e.g., letters, resumes) into a single document before uploading.

### **1. Application for Federal Education Assistance (Form SF 424)**

- This application cover sheet requires basic identifying information about the applicant and the application.
- Applicants should clearly indicate the CFDA number of the program **84.133A-1** in block 11. If this information is not provided, your application may be assigned and reviewed under a different program. For electronic submissions, you must download the correct application package from e-Application.
- Applicants must fill in block 12, Funding Opportunity Number/Priority Title. ED-GRANTS-XXXX/Title or the CFDA number.
- Applicants should note that there are multiple DRRPs open and use the **RELEVANT** CFDA Title from the NFP/NIA as the title.

### **2. Table of Contents**

- The Table of Contents shows where and how the important sections of your proposal are organized.
- While the application will be submitted electronically, the reviewers will use printed copies during the review process. The Table of Contents will assist them in more efficiently and effectively evaluating your application.
- Use the Table of Content heading to upload your document.

### **3. Project Abstract**

- The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of what the whole (all years) project is, not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced.
- Use the Abstract heading to upload your document.

#### **4. Budget Form and Information (ED 524)**

- Remember that you must provide complete budget information for each year of the proposed project. Use the Budget Narrative/Justification heading to upload.
- Please report on any Federal and Non-Federal funds that will be used.
- Specific instructions for completing the budget forms are provided within this application package.

Name: Enter the Name of the applicant organization(s) or institution(s) in the space provided.

Personnel (Line 1): Enter project personnel salaries and wages only. Include fees and expenses for consultants on line 6.

Fringe Benefits (Line 2): The institution's normal fringe benefits contribution may be charged to the program. Leave this line blank if fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as part of the indirect cost.

Travel (Line 3): Indicate the travel costs of employees and participants only. Include travel of persons such as consultants and trainees on line 6.

Equipment (Line 4): Indicate the cost of tangible, non-expendable personal property that has a usefulness greater than one year and acquisition costs that are the lesser of the capitalization level established by the applicant entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000 per article. Lower limits may be established to maintain consistency with the applicant's policy.

Supplies (line 5): Show all tangible personal property except that on line 4.

Contractual (line 6): The contractual category should include all costs specifically incurred with actions that the applicant takes in conjunction with an established internal procurement system. Include consultant fees, expenses, and travel costs in this category if the consultant's services are obtained through a written binding agreement or contract.

Construction (line 7): Not applicable.

Other (line 8): Indicate all direct costs not covered on lines 1-6. For example, include costs such as space rental, required fees, honoraria and travel (where a contract is not in place for services), stipends, training, and communication and printing costs.

Total Direct Costs (line 9): The sum of lines 1-8.

Indirect Costs (line 10): There is no restricted indirect cost rate for this program. Use your institution's Federally negotiated rate.

Training Stipends (line 11): There are three types of projects that might include budget requests for stipends, tuition allowance, or other types of similar charges to support the objectives of the project:

- ☐ Fellowship or Scholarship Programs
- ☐ Educational Training Projects
- ☐ Projects where students receive tuition remission or other forms of compensation, as, or in lieu of wages.

Total Cost (line 12): This should equal the sum of lines 9-11 (total direct costs + indirect + stipends). The sum for column one, labeled *Project Year 1* (a), should also be equal to item 18a on the application cover sheet (SF Form 424).

Cost Share or Matching: If you are providing voluntary cost share or matching, please include this information on the ED Form 524, Section B – Budget Summary, Non-Federal Funds – Tab 2 and in your budget narrative.

## **5. Budget Narrative**

- This part requires an itemized budget breakdown for the project year and the basis for estimating the costs of personnel salaries, benefits, project staff travel, materials and supplies, consultants and subcontracts, indirect costs and any other projected expenditures.
- Address Cost Share or Matching in a separate section of the budget narrative labeled “Cost Share or Matching”.
- Please provide an itemized budget breakdown for each project year.
- Descriptions of purchases may be included but is not required.
- Use the Budget Narrative/Justification heading to upload your document.

## **6. Project Narrative**

- The application narrative responds to the Statutory, Regulatory and General RRTC Requirements found in Section E and Selection Criteria found in Section F of this application package. The reviewers will use this section to evaluate your application.
- Applying through e-Application use the Project Narrative selection criteria categories to attach your narrative.

Each applicant is encouraged to limit the project narrative to the equivalent of no more than 125 pages, using the following standards:

- A “page” is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Double-space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative. Single spacing may be used for titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).
- Begin numbering the first page in Arabic numerals (“1”) and number the pages consecutively throughout the document.
- Include all critical information in the program narrative, minimizing the need for additional appendices.
- Include a complete bibliography listing all materials that were referenced in the project narrative.
- Upload in one document under the Project Narrative heading using the correct document format.

**NOTE:** The page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the one page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the project narrative section.

#### **7. Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support**

- Vitae of staff or consultants should include the individual's title and role in the proposed project, and other information that is specifically pertinent to this proposed project. The budgets for all years should be included.
- Applying through e-Application use the Other-Vitas category to attach your vitas.
- If collaboration with another organization is involved in the proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or assurances of cooperation.

#### **8 Assurances, Certifications, Disclosures**

- Assurances - Non-Construction Programs; Certifications Regarding Lobbying form
- Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transaction; Disclosure of Lobbying Activities;

#### **9 Reporting Requirements**

At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary under 34. CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.72 (c). For specific requirements on reporting please go to

[http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/ed524b\\_instructions.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/ed524b_instructions.pdf)

NIDRR will provide the reporting information to the successful applicants.

# **SECTION I**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER IN APPLICATION PREPARATION DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS**



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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### **1. CAN I GET AN EXTENSION OF THE DUE DATE?**

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In the case of most competitions the answer is no. On rare occasions the Department of Education may extend a closing date for all applicants. If that occurs, a notice of the revised due date is published in the Federal Register, this extension applies to all applications for a given competition. There are no extensions or exceptions to the due date made for individual applicants. Additionally, there are provisions for extension for e-grants, per the guidance included in the application package.

### **2. WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION?**

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The application should include a project narrative, vitae of key personnel, and a budget, as well as all other forms identified in this package. Vitae of staff or consultants should include the individual's title and role in the proposed projects, and other information that is specifically pertinent to this proposed project. The budgets for all years, including a detailed budget narrative, should be included. The 133F (Research Fellowship) is the exemption to the required budget. If collaboration with another organization or individual is involved in any proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or letters of cooperation. It is not useful to include general letters of support or endorsement in the application. If the applicant proposes to use unique tests or other measurement instruments that are not widely known in the field, it would be helpful to include the instrument in the application. Many applications contain voluminous appendices that are not helpful and in many cases cannot even be mailed to the reviewers. It is generally not helpful to include such things as brochures, general capability statements of collaborating organizations, maps, copies of publications, or descriptions of other projects completed by the applicant.

### **3. WHAT FORMAT SHOULD BE USED FOR THE APPLICATION?**

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NIDRR generally advises applicants to organize the application to follow the selection criteria that will be used. The project narrative should address the specific selection criteria for the competition. The specific review criteria vary according to the specific programs and are contained in this application package. Additionally, applicants should provide clearly stated hypotheses, goals, objectives, expected outcomes, and public benefit of the research or development project. The application should be organized to provide a thorough description of the methods and target population(s) and supported by evidence of need for the project, as identified in the relevant literature; citations are useful and may strengthen the proposal. Specific information on the format can be found in the application format section of this application package.

### **4. ARE THERE PAGE LIMITS TO MY APPLICATION?**

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NIDRR has two competitions with mandatory page limitations, Research Fellowships (133F) and Small Business Innovative Research (133S). All other competitions will suggest page

limitations for the narrative sections of the proposal. The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. The Notice Inviting Applications will describe the mandatory or suggested limitations, such as page size, spacing, and font size. The suggested page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the human subjects narrative; the budget narrative; the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all pertinent information in the application narrative.

#### **5. MAY I SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO MORE THAN ONE OPEN NIDRR PROGRAM COMPETITION AT A TIME OR MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION TO A PARTICULAR PROGRAM COMPETITION?**

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Yes. You may submit more than one application in any given competition. You may submit to as many open competitions, for which an application is responsive to the program requirements. However, each competition is unique and the selection criteria will vary from one competition to another. It is important that each separate application include the required materials for that particular competition.

#### **6. DO I NEED AN ABSTRACT AND WHAT SHOULD IT INCLUDE?**

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Yes. The abstract is used by both the peer reviewers and the program staff in the review and processing of the application. The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of the project (all years), not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced. If applying through e-grants, use the Abstract form to attach your abstract or the abstract section in e-Application.

#### **7. WHAT IS THE ALLOWABLE INDIRECT COST RATE?**

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The limits on indirect costs vary according to the program. NIDRR currently has two programs with a restricted indirect cost rate. An applicant for a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (133B) program may not collect more than 15% of the total grant award as indirect cost charges. An applicant for Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training project (133P) is limited to a training grant indirect rate of 8%, less tuition, stipend, and fees. The 133F, Research Fellowships does not submit a budget or use an indirect cost rate for submission. For all other programs, Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (133A), Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (133E), Field Initiated projects (133G), and the Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (133N), applicants must either have a current indirect cost rate agreement to charge indirect costs or if an applicant does not have a federally negotiated rate they can charge up to 10% of direct salaries and benefits as indirect costs until a negotiated indirect cost rate is approved. A new applicant using the 10% must submit their proposed rate to the Department's Indirect Cost office within 90 days. The maximum amount of the award includes both direct and indirect costs. The Department's Indirect Cost office has more information on indirect cost rates, see <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/fipao/abouticg.html>

## **8. CAN PROFIT MAKING BUSINESSES APPLY FOR GRANTS?**

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Yes; however, for-profit organizations will not be able to collect a fee or profit on the grant. It varies by program.

## **9. CAN INDIVIDUALS APPLY FOR GRANTS?**

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Individuals are not eligible to apply for most grant competitions under NIDRR programs (133A, B, E, G, P, or N). The one exception is the Research Fellowship program (84.133F), which is available only to individuals. The Merit Fellowships and Distinguished Fellowships awards are one Full Time Equivalent (FTE) awards. The Fellow must work principally on the fellowship during the term of the fellowship award. We define one FTE as equal to 40 hours per week. No Fellow is allowed to be a direct recipient of Federal government grant funds in addition to those provided by the Switzer Fellowship (during the duration of the Fellowship award performance period). Fellows may, subject to compliance with their institution's policy on additional employment, work on a Federal grant that has been awarded to the Fellow's institution. Fellows may, subject to compliance with their institution's policy on additional employment, work additional hours at their institution. Additional work that is not monitored by the Fellow's institution is subject to NIDRR's limits regarding the number of additional hours permitted. Please contact NIDRR if the latter situation applies.

## **10. CAN NIDRR STAFF ADVISE ME WHETHER MY PROJECT IS OF INTEREST TO NIDRR OR LIKELY TO BE FUNDED?**

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No. NIDRR staff can only advise you of the requirements of the program in which you propose to submit your application. However, staff cannot advise you of whether your subject area or proposed approach is likely to receive approval.

## **11. HOW DO I ENSURE THAT MY APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED UNDER THE CORRECT COMPETITION?**

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Applicants should be sure that their applications are referred to the correct competition by clearly including the competition title and CFDA number, including alphabetical code, on the Standard Form 424, and include a project title that describes the project, based on the competition. If reapplying for the Field Initiated (133G), you should identify if the application is a resubmittal from a previous fiscal year.

## **12. HOW SOON AFTER SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION CAN I FIND OUT IF IT WILL BE FUNDED?**

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The time from closing date to grant award date varies from program to program. Generally speaking, NIDRR endeavors to have awards made within six to seven months of the closing date. Unsuccessful applicants generally will be notified within that time frame as well. When NIDRR is able to release information on the status of grant applications, it will notify applicants by letter. The results of the peer review cannot be released except through this formal notification. This information is **not** posted on the NIDRR homepage or the e-Application website.

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**13. WHAT START DATE SHOULD I USE ON MY APPLICATION?**

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For the purpose of estimating a project start date, the applicant should estimate approximately six to seven months from the closing date, preferably October 1. You must have a start date that allows you to complete an Annual Performance Report (APR) by May 31<sup>st</sup> with six month of activities to report on.

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**14. IF MY APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, CAN I ASSUME I WILL GET THE REQUESTED BUDGET AMOUNT IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS?**

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No. Funding in subsequent years is subject to availability of funds and project performance.

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**15. WILL ALL APPROVED APPLICATIONS BE FUNDED?**

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No. Peer review panels can result in more applications being determined to be worthy of consideration for funding than available resources allow.. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to consider resubmitting applications in future competitions. Funded applications will be notified in the manner described in #12.

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**16. HOW DO THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS IMPACT ON MY APPLICATION?**

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Successful applicants with multi-year grants must submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) demonstrating and documenting their progress in meeting approved project objectives and their success in addressing the performance measures outlined in the Notice Inviting Applications. Grantees must also provide the most current financial and performance measure data for each year of the project. Grantees will also be required to submit a final performance report, 90 days after the end of the project period. For NIDRR, the APR is submitted electronically via a web-based system. This system is maintained by a contractor and grantees are notified after receiving an award with the appropriate URL and personal password to access the system. The contractor will also send a letter to the grantee informing them when and how to submit their APR. The Department will use the applicant's performance data for program management and administration, in such areas as determining new and continuation funding and planning technical assistance. Grantees are required to participate fully in any evaluation of the NIDRR program carried out by the Department of Education.

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**17. DO I HAVE TO INCLUDE COST SHARE/MATCHING IN MY APPLICATION?**

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NIDRR has cost share/matching requirements on two of its programs, the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (133A) and the Field Initiated program (133G) in accordance with statutory (29 USC 762), regulatory (34 CFR Section 350.52), and administrative requirements. This information should be reflected on the SF 424 #18. (B), the ED 524 form - Section B (Budget Summary Non-Federal Funds), and in the budget narrative for each year. A minimum amount of up to 1% of the total yearly budget amount is required; however, you may include more than 1%. If the cost share amount is changed for a competition, it will be

announced in the Notice Inviting Applications. For more information, see EDGAR 74.23 and 84.24. If the cost share is voluntary, the amount and explanation should also be in the SF 424, ED 524, and the budget justification.

## **18. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO ABOUT HUMAN SUBJECTS PROTECTION IN MY RESEARCH?**

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If you are planning research involving human subjects at any time during the project period, you check “Yes” in the Human Subjects section of the ED supplement to the SF 424 form. If you checked “Yes,” you need to indicate whether the research is exempt or not exempt from the protection of human subjects requirements of EDGAR part 97 and if you have an IRB number. You will need to fill out the human subjects narrative for each site where the research is being conducted. The program and the Department’s human subjects staff review the applicant’s response against the application itself to determine its accuracy. They contact you for additional information or clarification, if needed. More information can be found in the instructions for the SF 424 form and in this application package in the Human Subjects section.

## **19. SHOULD I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION VIA e-Application?**

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The Federal Government is moving towards mandatory electronic submission for its grant applications. The Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) provides information on how to submit via e-Application and the application package includes helpful tips. The NIA will also identify if paper submission is allowed. If you do submit by paper, include a disk copy of your application. **We strongly suggest:** (1) Read the e-Application instructions carefully; (2) Check with your organization or institution if they are already registered in e-Application; if not, **do not wait** to set up your account because it can take five or more days to register; (3) Review the heading sections before sending the application to ensure that all information has been uploaded correctly and completely; and (4) Submit early; electronic applications must be uploaded on e-Application by 4:30:00 pm, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date. Please allow several hours or a full day for this process; if there is a submission error, time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit to meet the deadline. Applications received/logged in after 4:30:00 pm (Washington, DC time) will not be reviewed.

You **must** submit your application electronically through the e-Application system. **<http://e-grants.ed.gov>** See Section B, Notice Inviting Applications and Section J, Application Transmittal Instructions. There is a demo on the e-Application website.

**NOTE:** You will be uploading sections of your application by heading. There is a heading for: (1) abstract; (2) table of contents; (3) project narrative; (4) other – resumes; (5) other – letters of commitment/support; (6) other and (7) budget narrative/justification. There is a file-size limitation to each section and you may only upload one document under each heading. Therefore, in order to make sure that all of your materials are uploaded successfully, you will need to combine multiple original documents for a heading (e.g., letters, resumes) into a single document before uploading.

## POINTS TO REMEMBER IN APPLICATION PREPARATION

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### RELEVANT TO PROGRAM

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1. **CFDA Number:** In the title block on the SF 424 form, please note the appropriate CFDA 84.133A. For electronic submissions, you must submit your application electronically through the e-Application system. <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.
2. **ED-GRANTS- XXXX (Priority Title).** Required field on the SF 424 form for e-Application. or use the CFDA Number
3. **Indirect Cost:** There is no restricted indirect cost rate for the **133A** program. You should use your federal negotiated indirect cost rate – see #7 FAQs. Indirect cost office: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/fipao/icgindex.html>. Any subcontractors' rates are based on the applicants' policies on indirect costs.
4. **Application Narrative** - Organize your narrative in accordance with the selection criteria in Section F of this package. Address all criteria. Include a table of contents in your application in order to highlight where the application narrative can be found in the application. If applying through e-application use the Project Narrative form to attach your narrative. We recommend that you limit the application narrative to the equivalent of no more than 125 pages, using the following standards: A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides. Double-space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative. Single space may be used for Titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs. Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10-pitch (characters per inch).

### CLOSING DATE/TRANSMITTAL OF APPLICATION

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5. Applications must be **postmarked** by the closing date of **June 29, 2010, if submitting in paper**. Follow the transmittal instructions for submitting in paper or electronically found in Section J. Please include an electronic copy (disk) with your application.
6. **You must submit your application electronically via e-Application.** Your application must be uploaded on e-Application by 4:30:00 pm, Washington DC time on the closing date. Please allow several hours or a full day for this process; if there is a submission error, time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit to meet the deadline.) For additional information on electronic submission procedures, see the section J. A copy of your application should not be emailed directly to the Department.

## FORMS

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7. **Only the primary institution fills out the required forms.** Any partner or collaborating groups will be a subcontractor to the primary. The only paperwork the subcontractor should complete is that required by the primary institution. You should include a letter of intent in the application from any collaborating group saying that if awarded what goals/duties they will be responsible for and the dollar amount associated with their involvement.

## APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF 424

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8. **Leave these blocks blank or enter N/A:** **Block 4**-Applicant Identifier, **block 5**-Applicant Identifier, **block 5a**- Federal Entity, **block 5b**- Federal Award Identifier, **block 6**-Date Received by State, and **block 7**,-State Application Number.
9. **Legal Name:** **Block 8a** is for the name of institution or entity that will be responsible for this grant if funded. Applying electronically this will match with information in the registration.
10. **DUNS number:** It is important to verify with your fiscal office the DUNS number, which goes in **block 8c** on the ED 424 form. If you do not have one, call 1-800-333-0505 to set one up. This number is required. Applying via electronically you must enter the DUNS number for your organization used when registering.
11. **CFDA Number:** In **block 11**, please note the appropriate CFDA and title you are applying for.
12. **Funding Opportunity Number/Priority Title.** In **block 12** this is a required field when using e-Application. Or use the CFDA Number.
13. **Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.** In **block 15**, this is the title given by the applicant. If applying to a specific priority topic – the title should be as close as possible.
14. **Block #18a:** The total amount of Federal funds requested includes both direct and indirect costs for the first year only. The totals on the ED 524 form must include direct and indirect costs and no year can be over the maximum amount. (Note: 84.133F applicants do not submit the ED 524 form)
15. **Block #18b:** The amount of cost share/matching that the applicant is providing. This amount should be on the “B” side of the ED 524 form and described in the budget narrative.
16. **Block #18f:** The amount of program income that is estimated to be generated by this application if funded. It should be described in the budget narrative and does not go on the ED 524 form. An example of program income would be registration fees for a conference. These will be used to off-set part of the cost of the conference.
17. **EO 12372:** Mark Block #19, the EO 12372 as no and not covered. This program is not covered.

## ED SUPPLEMENTAL FORM

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18. **Project Director: Block #1**, Project director information. The Project Director is the primary person responsible for meeting the goals and objectives of the grant.
19. **Novice applicant: Block #2**. Please mark N/A. This does not apply to NIDRR programs.
20. **Human Subjects: Block #3**. You must include a separate 7-point narrative for each site where the research is being conducted. If you check “no”, please include a paragraph of why it is not required. IRB approval is not required at the time of award, but must be in place before research begins. The area to upload this information is available through this form.

## ED 524

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21. **Budget Information: BE SURE TO CHECK THE MATH** - the application will not be reviewed if the request for funds on block 18a of the SF 424 form, the ED 524 form or the budget justification goes over the maximum amount for any year (total of direct and indirect costs). A detailed budget narrative is needed for each year of grant years requested. Include in the narrative/justification contract information and all mandatory and voluntary cost share from side B of the ED 524. (Note: 84.133F applicants do not submit a ED 524 form)
22. **Costs associated with students**, i.e., Post Docs that are excluded from the direct cost lines are not subject to the indirect costs if placed on Tuition/Stipend/Fee line. If the student costs (salary, fringe, tuition and fees, supplies, training and conference fees, etc.) are included in the direct cost amount they are subject to the appropriate indirect rate.

## E-APPLICATION AT [HTTP://E-GRANTS.ED.GOV](http://E-GRANTS.ED.GOV) INFORMATION

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23. **We strongly suggest:** (1) Read the instructions carefully; (2) Don't wait until close to the due date to set up your account - It can take several days to register; (3) Review the application before sending final version to ensure that all information has been uploaded correctly and completely; and (4) Submit early.
24. **Electronic applications must be uploaded on e-Application by 4:30:00 pm, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date.** Please allow several hours or a full day for this process; if there is a submission error time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit to meet the deadline. For additional information on electronic submission procedures, see the transmittal section of the Notice Inviting Applications. The e-Application website has a demo.
25. **You will be uploading sections of your application by heading.** There is a heading for: (1) abstract; (2) table of contents; (3) project narrative; (4) other – resumes; (5) other – letters of commitment/support; (6) other and (7) budget narrative/justification.



There is a file-size limitation to each section and you may only upload one document under each heading. Therefore, in order to make sure that all of your materials are uploaded successfully, you will need to combine multiple original documents for a heading (e.g. letters, resumes) into a single document before uploading.

26. **Document Format:** You must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document) format, if you upload a file type other than these three file types, such as Excel, or submit a password protected file, we will not review that material.
27. **UNSUBMIT:** Please note that e-Applicaton **does** allow you to unsubmit your application if you find an error before the due date and time. You will have to select “unsubmit” then make your changes and select the Ready to Submit button again in order to complete the process.

## **ABSTRACT/NARRATIVE/APPENDICES**

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28. **Abstract:** The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of what the whole (all years) project is, not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced. Applying through e-Application use the Abstract heading to upload your abstract.
29. **Number all pages** to make it easier for the reader to refer to a page number if comments are given (including the appendices).
30. **Vitae:** Remember to include pertinent information in your narrative of the qualifications of the key personnel. A more extensive 2-4 page vitae can be included in the appendices. Applying through e-Application use the Other – Resume heading to attach your vitas. Remember only one document can be uploaded per heading.
31. **Advisory Board:** We suggest that you limit your list of advisory board members in the application. You can give a description of the type/qualification of the person. Remember that an extensive listing of proposed names affects our peer reviewer selection. Applying through e-Application use the Other – Letters of Commitment/Support heading to up load your letters of commitment. Remember only one document can be uploaded per heading.
32. **Letters of Commitment/Support:** If you have identified a partner, sub-contractor or consultant you should include a letter of commitment from them stating what they’ll be doing on your project. We suggest that you only include key letters of support. Remember that letters of support diminish our peer reviewer pool. Applying through e-Application use the Other – Letters of Commitment/Support heading to up load your letters of commitment. Remember only one document can be uploaded per heading.
33. **Use Of Person Loading Charts.** It is important for applicants to include proposed time commitments for all project personnel. Also, program officials and applicants often find person loading charts useful formats for showing project personnel and their time

commitments to individual activities. A personal loading chart is a tabular representation of major evaluation activities by number of days spent by each key person involved in each activity.

## **MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION AND REMINDERS**

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- 34. Rehabilitation Act:** To find information on the Rehab Act of 1973, as amended, as well as other NIDRR policy & legislation, go to:  
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/policy.html> and  
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/reg/narrative.html?exp=0>
- 35. Help in Preparing Applications.** We are happy to provide general program information. Clearly it would not be appropriate for staff to participate in the actual writing of an application, but we can respond to specific questions about our application requirements and evaluation criteria, or about the announced priorities. Applicants should understand that such previous contact is not required, nor does it guarantee the success of an application.
- 36. Possibility Of Learning The Outcome Of Review Panels Prior To Official Notification.** Every year we are called by a number of applicants who have legitimate reasons for needing to know the outcome of the review prior to official notification. Some applicants need to make job decisions, some need to notify a partner, etc. Regardless of the reason, we cannot share information about the review with anyone until the Assistant Secretary has approved a slate of projects recommended for funding. You will be notified as quickly as possible either by telephone (if your application is recommended for funding), or through a letter (if your application is not successful).
- 37. Return of Non-Funded Applications.** We do not return original copies of applications. Thus, applicants should retain at least one copy of the application. Copies of reviewer comments will be mailed to all applicants.
- 38. Successful Applications And Estimated/Projected Budget Amounts In Subsequent Years.** There is a maximum award amount specified for the priority/competitions included in this package. The Department rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding the maximum amount for any single budget period of 12 months for the priorities included in this package. Since the yearly budgets for multi-year projects will be negotiated at the time of the initial award, applicants must include detailed budgets for each year of their proposed project. Generally, out-year funding levels most likely will not exceed 1st year budgets. However, budget modifications during the negotiation process, the findings from the previous year, or needed changes in the study design can affect your budget requirements in subsequent years, but in no case will out-year budgets exceed the maximum award amount.

39. To see what NIDRR has funded or are currently funding on **transition**, we have an on-line program directory at [www.naric.com](http://www.naric.com)

Once there - click on NIDRR. Under grantee resources click on search for other research projects. This will connect you to the program directory. Click on search all fields then type in **transition**. By clicking on a grant number you can see information on who has the grant, how to contact them and a brief description of their project. Instead of searching all fields, you can search by project type – i.e., Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects.

## DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS

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NOTE: Check with your fiscal office to see if your institution has an assigned DUNS before contacting Dun & Bradstreet

D-U-N-S No.: Please provide the applicant's D-U-N-S Number. You can obtain your D-U-N-S Number at no charge by calling **1-800-234-3867** or by completing a D-U-N-S Number Request Form. The form can be obtained via the Internet at the following URL:

**[http://www.dnb.com/US/duns\\_update/index.html](http://www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/index.html)**

The D-U-N-S Number is a unique nine-digit number that does not convey any information about the recipient. A built in check digit helps assure the accuracy of the D-U-N-S Number. The ninth digit of each number is the check digit, which is mathematically related to the other digits. It lets computer systems determine if a D-U-N-S Number has been entered correctly.

Dun & Bradstreet, a global information services provider, has assigned D-U-N-S numbers to over 43 million companies worldwide. **Live help Monday-Friday 8am-6pm (EST) Dial 1.800.234.3867**

NOTE: Electronic submissions must use the DUNS number your organization used when it registered in the Central Contractor Registry.

# **SECTION J**

## **E-APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND TIPS FOR APPLICANTS**

### **APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS**

## **IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ FIRST**

# **U.S. Department of Education E-APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND TIPS FOR APPLICANTS**

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<http://e-grants.ed.gov>

To facilitate your use of e-Application, this document includes important application preparation and submission procedures you need to be aware of to ensure your application is received in a timely manner and accepted by the Department of Education. Please read and follow these step-by-step directions to create and submit your application.

## **ATTENTION**

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Applicants using the Department of Education's e-Application system will need to register first to access an application package. Forms in an application package are completed on line and narratives are uploaded while logged into the system. Therefore, allow sufficient time to complete your application before the closing date. If you have not used e-Application in the past, you may want to walk through the Demo available on the e-Application homepage. If you encounter difficulties, you may also contact the e-Grants help desk on 1-888-336-8930. The following are steps you should follow to successfully complete an application with e-Application.

Step 1 – Determine if your program is accepting electronic applications. The Federal Register Notice of each program will indicate whether the program is accepting e-Applications as part of the Department's e-Application program. Here is a link to the Department's Federal Register notices:  
<http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister/announce/index.html>. Additional information on the Department's of Education's grant programs can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/grants/grants.html>.

Step 2 – Register in e-Application to access the application package. If you are a new user, you will need to register to use e-Application. From the e-Grants Portal Page <http://e-grants.ed.gov/>, click on the continue button and click the register button on the right side of the next page. Select the e-Application module and click the next button. Please provide the requested information. Your e-Grants password will be sent to the e-mail address you provide. Once you receive the e-mail, enter your username and password and click the login button.

If you already have a username and password for e-Grants, use them to login. If you have access to more than one e-Grants module, you will be directed to select which module you wish to enter. Keep in mind that this username and password will be used for all e-Grants modules. In order to update your registration for additional e-Grants modules, click the appropriate tab on the top of the screen and provide the requested information.

Note the following browser compatibility problems. The site is viewed best in Internet Explorer 5. We currently support IE 5, Netscape 6.2, Firefox 2.2 (along with later versions of IE, Netscape and Firefox ). Please make sure that you have **Cookies** and **JavaScript** enabled in your browser.

- Step 3 - **Add Application Package to your Start Page.** From your Start Page, click on the "Add" button to see the list of application packages. Click on a specific package link on the List of Application Packages to apply. The package will now appear on your Start Page. From this point forward, you will access your unique application from your Start Page (not the Packages Page).
- Step 4 - **Begin the Application.** Click on the underlined Application Package Title on your Start Page. This brings you to a page where you will see all of the application's forms and narratives listed as underlined links.
- Step 5 - **Fill out Forms.** Enter a form by clicking on the underlined form title in order to enter data. Remember to click the "Save" button at the bottom of the form and check the "Form Completed" box for each form as you complete it.
- Step 6 - **Upload File(s) for Narrative Responses.** Click on an underlined narrative form title for the e-Application. Enter the title of the document, and click on the "Browse" button to locate your file. Remember to click the "Save" button after you upload the document and check the "Form Completed" box when you finish uploading your file(s). Please note for file uploads, we accept .doc, .rtf, and .pdf files only. If you are using Word 2007, please save your document in a lower version of Word before uploading into e-Application.
- Step 7 - **Verify Information/Print Application.** Verify your information is complete and correct on all required forms and narratives. You have the option to print each form at any time by clicking on the print/view icon  next to the appropriate form. After submission of the forms and narratives, you have the option to print a complete e-Application package in PDF by clicking on the "Request Complete Package in PDF" on the e-Application PR/Award page. A second window will open informing you that your request has been received and that you will be notified via email once it is available. This process can take anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours. Once you receive the email, click on the link in the text of the message and enter your username and password in the new window. This will open the PDF file from which you can view/print the entire package. In addition, a blank complete package in PDF will be accessible from the package page in e-Application.
- Step 8 - **Submit your Application.** Only authorized individuals for your organization can submit an application. Please check with your Authorizing Representative or sponsored research office before submission. Click on the "Ready to submit" button at the bottom of your application. Enter and verify the Authorizing Representative information. Click the "Submit" button. You will receive an e-mail to confirm that your application was received, and it will include a unique

application number. Please print and keep this e-mail for your records.  
[Reminder: applications must be submitted before 4:30:00 pm, Washington, D.C. time, on the deadline date for applications. e-Application will not accept your application if you try to submit it after 4:30:00 on the deadline date.]

**Step 9 - Fax the signed SF 424 Cover Page (or Program Specific Cover Page).**

Write your unique application number (received in step 8) on the upper right corner of your printed SF 424 Cover Page (or Program Specific Cover Page), and fax it to the Application Control Center (202) 245-6272 within 3 business days of submitting your e-Application.

NOTE: For more detailed information on submitting an e-Application, please see the **User Guide**. In addition, please try practicing with our e-Application Demo site by clicking on the Demo button found on the upper left corner of the e-Application Home Page. Both the User Guide and Demo can be found at <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

## **OTHER SUBMISSION TIPS**

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- **SUBMIT EARLY – We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the last day to submit your application.** The time it takes to upload the narratives for your application will vary depending on a number of factors including the size of the files and the speed of your Internet connection. If you try to submit your application after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time on the deadline date, the e-Application system will not accept it.

- 2) If electronic submission is optional and you have problems that you are unable to resolve before the deadline date and time for electronic applications, please follow the transmittal instructions for hard copy applications in the Federal Register notice and get a hard copy application postmarked by midnight on the deadline date.

If electronic submission is required, you must submit an electronic application before 4:30:00 p.m., unless you follow the procedures in the Federal Register notice and qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

- 3) Dial-Up Internet Connections - When using a dial up connection to upload and submit your application, it can take significantly longer than when you are connected to the Internet with a high-speed connection, e.g. cable modem/DSL/T1. While times will vary depending upon the size of your application, it can take a few minutes to a few hours to complete your grant submission using a dial up connection. If you do not have access to a high-speed connection and electronic submission is required, you may want to consider following the instructions in the Federal Register notice to obtain an exception to the electronic submission requirement no later than



two weeks before the application deadline date. (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

## **ATTACHING FILES – ADDITIONAL TIPS**

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Please note the following tips related to attaching files to your application:

1. Ensure that you only attach the Education approved file types detailed in the Federal Register application notice (.doc, .pdf or .rtf). If using Word 2007, save your file to an earlier version of Word before uploading. Also, do not upload any password protected files to your application.
2. When attaching files, applicants should limit the size of their file names. Lengthy file names could result in difficulties with opening and processing your application. We recommend you keep your file names to less than 50 characters. In addition, applicants should avoid including special characters in their file names (for example, %, \*, /, etc.) Both of these conditions (lengthy file names and/or special characters including in the file names) could result in difficulties opening and processing a submitted application.
3. Applicants should limit the size of their file attachments. Documents submitted that contain graphics and/or scanned material often greatly increase the size of the file attachments and can result in difficulties opening the files. Please note that each file attachment in e-Application has a file size limitation which is anywhere from 2 to 8 MB and the limitation will be indicated on the individual screen when you upload a file. For reference, however, the average discretionary grant application package totals 1 to 2 MB. Therefore, you may want to check the size of your attachments before uploading them into e-Application.

# **APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAIL OR HAND DELIVERY IF A WAIVER HAS BEEN OBTAINED**

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## **SUBMISSION OF PAPER APPLICATIONS BY MAIL.**

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If you submit your application in paper format by mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), you must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

**By mail through the U.S. Postal Service:**

U.S. Department of Education  
Application Control Center  
Attention: (CFDA number 84.133A-1)  
LBJ Basement Level 1  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4260

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S.

Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark.
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

**c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.**

If you submit your application in paper format if a waiver has been obtained by hand delivery, you (or a courier service) must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education  
Application Control Center  
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-1)  
550 12th Street, SW  
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza  
Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

**Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications:**

If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

- (1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and
- (2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

# **SECTION K**

## **VOLUNTARY LETTER OF INTENT**

## **VOLUNTARY NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY:**

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Due to the open nature of the Center on Transition to Employment (CFDA Number - 84.133A-1) competition, and to assist with the selection of reviewers for this competition, NIDRR is requesting all potential applicants to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). The submission is not mandatory and the content of the LOI will not be peer reviewed or otherwise used to rate an applicant's application.

Each LOI should be limited to a maximum of four pages and include the following information: (1) the title of the proposed project, which final priority will be addressed, the name of the company, the name of the Project Director or Principal Investigator (PI), and the names of partner institutions and entities; (2) a brief statement of the vision, goals, and objectives of the proposed project and a description of its activities at a sufficient level of detail to allow NIDRR to select potential peer reviewers; (3) a list of proposed project staff including the Project Director or PI and key personnel; (4) a list of individuals whose selection as a peer reviewer might constitute a conflict of interest due to involvement in proposal development, selection as an advisory board member, co-PI relationships, etc.; and (5) contact information for the Project Director or PI. Submission of a LOI is a prerequisite for eligibility to submit an application.

NIDRR will accept the optional LOI via surface mail, e-mail, or facsimile by May 28, 2010. The LOI must be sent to: Surface mail: Lynn Medley, U.S. Department of Education, 550 12th Street, SW, room 5142, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202; or fax (202) 245-7323; or e-mail: [Lynn.Medley@ed.gov](mailto:Lynn.Medley@ed.gov)

For further information regarding the LOI requirement contact Person's Name at (202) 245-7462.

**SECTION L**  
**REQUIRED FORMS**  
**AND**  
**FORM INSTRUCTIONS**

## **APPLICATION FORMS**

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The enclosed forms shall be used by all applicants for Federal Assistance under all NIDRR programs. A separate application must be submitted for each grant sought. No grant may be awarded unless the completed application forms have been received. If an item does not appear to be relevant to the assistance requested, write "NA" for not applicable.

For paper submission (IF A WAIVER HAS BEEN REQUESTED AND APPROVED) this application consists of four parts. These parts are organized in the same manner that the submitted application should be organized. These parts are as follows:

- Part I Federal Assistance Application Face Page (SF 424) and the ED Supplemental
- Part II Budget Information
- Part III Application Narrative
- Part IV Assurances, Certifications and Disclosures

Each submitted application should include an index or table of contents and a one-page project abstract. Pages should be consecutively numbered.

For MANDATORY electronic submission through e-Application the application format is set in the Headings.

- Part I Federal Assistance Application Face Page (SF 424)  
ED Supplemental
- Part II Abstract
  - Table of Contents
  - Project Narrative
  - Other - Resumes
  - Other – Letters of Commitment/Support
  - Other -- Budget Narrative

## REQUIRED FORMS:

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For paper submission – If you have received a waiver -- go to the website below to access the required forms.

<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html>

Applying on e-Application the forms are set up in the system for you to fill out. The instructions to these forms are in the area.

- Application for Federal Assistance SF-424
- ED Supplemental
- Budget Information (ED 524)
- Assurances - Non-Construction Programs (SF 424b)
- Certifications Regarding Lobbying
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF LLL)



# **SECTION M**

## **APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

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- ☐ Did you complete the registration process for e-Application for the mandatory electronic submission on <http://e-grants.ed.gov>?

### **Does your application include each of the following?**

- ☐ Cover page (SF 424) marked appropriately with **84.133A-1**. Download of correct package for **84.133A-1** applying electronically
- ☐ Priority Topic identified in the Descriptive Title in Block 11 of the SF 424?
- ☐ Budget form (ED form 524) with dollar amounts not exceeding the maximum in any year?
- ☐ Required Cost Share included both on the “B” side of the ED 524 and explained in the budget narrative for each year?
- ☐ Budget narrative for each year with arithmetic checked for accuracy
- ☐ Program narrative, including abstract and responses to the selection criteria
- ☐ Assurances and Certifications (from the forms list in section K)
- ☐ Correctly uploaded files on e-Application?
- ☐ Narrative on the Protection of Human Subjects?

### **Did You do each of the following?**

- ☐ Submit application on or before **June 29, 2010**?
- ☐ Provide 1 original and 2 copies of the application if submitting by post, hand-delivery or carrier service (Although not required, 1 original and 9 copies are requested and a disk copy) – if you obtained a waiver?
- ☐ Fully complete the upload of your application and receive successful validation of the submission **before 4:30:00 pm**, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date?

## **Paperwork Burden Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1820-0027. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 200 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection.

**If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to:** U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537. **If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to:** 84.133 Grant Program, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-2700.

## **GRANT APPLICATION RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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If you fail to receive the notification of application within fifteen (15) days from the closing date, call:

U.S. Department of Education  
Application Control Center  
(202) 245-6288

## **GRANT AND CONTRACT FUNDING INFORMATION**

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The Department of Education provides information about grant and contract opportunities electronically in several ways:

ED Internet Home Page      [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)